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Letter dated 11 May 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 10 May 2001 from His Excellency Mr. Monie R. Captan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, addressed to you, concerning the situation in Lofa County, Liberia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Famatta R. **Osode**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 10 May 2001 from His Excellency Mr. Monie R. Captan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, addressed to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to present my compliments and to notify you of the violation of paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1343 (2001) by the Government of Guinea. The Government of Guinea has openly, blatantly and with impunity allowed Liberian dissidents, mainly former combatants of the United Liberation Movement for Democracy (ULIMO) living in Guinea, to carry out armed attacks against Liberia in Lofa County with the intention of overthrowing the Government of Liberia. In addition, the Guinean Army has provided and continues to provide military support to these dissidents.

Recently, several dissidents were captured by Liberian security forces and are being held as prisoners of war (POWs). Among the POWs is a Kamajor member who was captured fighting alongside the ULIMO forces. Statements taken from these POWs have confirmed that the Kamajors, who are supported by the Sierra Leonean army, have now joined ULIMO with the support of the Guinean army in their armed attacks into Liberian territory from Guinea.

The war in Lofa County has resulted in the displacement of over 450,000 persons and the destruction of infrastructure rehabilitated after the Liberian civil war, including schools and hospitals. This war, which now involves the Sierra Leonean Kamajors, the Guinean army and ULIMO, has the potential of spilling over into the subregion and exacerbating the already critical humanitarian situation.

The report of the Inter-Agency Mission to West Africa (see E/2001/56), dated 2 May 2001, warned that the uncertainty in Sierra Leone is echoed by uncertainty in relations between Liberia and Guinea and the risk of the further spread of conflict within the Mano River Union countries. The alliance between the Guinean army and ULIMO-K has proved unpredictable.

The Government of Liberia hopes that the United Nations will not use double standards in its dealings with the different members of the Mano River Union. The Security Council is under obligation to take action against Guinea for its violation of paragraph 4 of resolution 1343 (2001). In view of the foregoing, the Government of Liberia calls upon the United Nations to dispatch a fact-finding mission to Liberia to investigate the ongoing attacks from Guinea into Liberia.

The Government of Liberia wishes to inform the United Nations that the arms embargo placed upon Liberia has impaired Liberia's capacity to adequately exercise its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Liberian Government reserves the right to defend itself pursuant to this fundamental Charter provision.

(*Signed*) Monie R. **Captan**
Minister